

4-28-00

UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL

Attorney Docket
No.

MAT-P-99-002

First Named Inventor or Application Identifier

Brian M. Mattson

Express Mail Label No: EL 449686245 US

only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))

ADDRESS TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Box Patent Application
Washington, DC 20231

APPLICATION ELEMENTS

See MPEP chapter 600 concerning utility patent application contents.

1. ☒ Specification Total Pages 13
2. ☒ Drawing(s) (35USC 113) Total Pages 01
3. ☒ Declaration and Power of Attorney Total Pages 02
 - a. ☒ Newly executed
 - b. ☐ Copy from prior application (37CFR 1.63(d))
(for continuation/divisional with Box 14 completed)
[Note Box 4 Below]
 - i. ☐ **DELETION OF INVENTOR(S)**
Signed statement attached deleting
inventor(s) named in the prior application,
see 37 CFR 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b).
4. ☐ Incorporation By Reference (usable if Box 3b is checked)
The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which a
copy of the oath or declaration is supplied under Box 3b,
is considered as being part of the disclosure of the
accompanying application and is hereby incorporated by
reference therein.

ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS

5. ☒ Assignment Papers (cover sheet & documentation)
including check for \$40.00 recordation fee
6. ☐ Letter under 37 CFR 1.41(c).
7. ☐ English Translation Document (if applicable)
8. ☐ Information Disclosure ☐ Copies of IDS
Statement (IDS)/PTO-1449 Citations
9. ☐ Preliminary Amendment
10. ☒ Return Receipt Postcard (MPEP 503)
(Should be specifically itemized)
11. ☒ Small Entity ☐ Statement filed in prior application,
Statement(s) Status still proper and desired
12. ☐ Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)
13. ☐ Other:

14. If a **CONTINUING APPLICATION**, check appropriate box and supply the requisite information:

- ☐ Continuation ☐ Divisional ☐ Continuation-in-part (CIP) ☐ of prior application No: _____

CLAIMS AS FILED				
(1) FOR	(2) NUMBER FILED	(3) NUMBER EXTRA	(4) RATE	(5) BASIC FEE \$345.00
TOTAL CLAIMS 20	20	0	9.00	
INDEPENDENT CLAIMS 03	03	0	39.00	
ANY MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIMS?			260.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO				
			TOTAL FILING FEE →	\$345.00

- ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required in connection with this application, or credit any overpayment to **DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 50-0595**. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.
- ☒ A check in the amount of \$ 345.00 to cover the filing fee is enclosed.

15. CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

PATENTS+TMS
A Professional Corporation
1914 North Milwaukee Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60647
Telephone (773) 772-6009 - Fax (773) 772-3210

SIGNATURE

Brian M. Mattson (Reg. No. 35,076)

DATE: April 27, 2000

04-28-00

A

Patents +TMS
1914 North Milwaukee Avenue
Chicago, IL 60647
Tel.: 773/772-6009
Fax: 773/772-3210

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY EXPRESS MAIL

EXPRESS MAIL LABEL NUMBER: EL449686245US

DATE OF DEPOSIT: APRIL 27, 2000

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as "EXPRESS MAIL POST OFFICE TO ADDRESSEE" under 37 C.F.R. §1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to:

Asst. Commissioner for Patents
BOX PATENT APPLICATIONS
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D.C. 20231

CONTENTS:

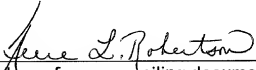
Our Case No.: MAT-P-99-002

New Patent application for: Brian M. Mattson

Entitled: "A SYSTEM AND A METHOD FOR PROVIDING REAL-TIME RESTAURANT REVIEWS"

Transmittal Form in duplicate transmitting:

- 1) EXPRESS MAIL LETTER
- 2) SPECIFICATION --13 pages
- 3) DRAWINGS- 1 SHEETS, FIGS. 1-2
- 4) EXECUTED DECLARATION
- 5) EXECUTED SMALL ENTITY DECLARATION
- 6) EXECUTED ASSIGNMENT, PTO-1595, CHECK FOR \$40.00 AND POSTCARD
- 7) CHECK FOR \$345.00 FILING FEE (20 CLAIMS, 3 IND.)
- 8) POSTCARD



Signature of person mailing documents and fees

04/27/00
JCS04 U.S. PTO

EL449686245US

JCS04 U.S. PTO
09/560067
04/27/00

09560067 042700

Applicant(s) or Patentee(s) Brian M. Mattson

Attorney's
Docket No. MAT-P-99-002

Serial or Patent No. _____

Filed or Issued: _____

For: "A SYSTEM AND A METHOD FOR PROVIDING REAL-TIME RESTAURANT REVIEWS"

VERIFIED STATEMENT (DECLARATION) CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS
(37 CFR 1.9(f) & 1.27(e)) - SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN

I hereby declare that I am

☒ the owner of the small business concern identified below:

☐ an official of the small business concern empowered to act on behalf of the concern identified below:

NAME OF CONCERN PATENTS+TMS, P.C.

ADDRESS OF CONCERN 1914 N. MILWAUKEE AVE., CHICAGO, IL 60647

I hereby declare that the above-identified small business concern qualifies as a small business concern as defined in 13 CFR 121.12, and reproduced in 37 CFR 1.9(d), for purposes of paying reduced fees under section 41(a) and (b) of Title 35, United States Code, in that the number of employees of the concern, including those of its affiliates, does not exceed 500 persons. For purposes of this statement, (1) the number of employees of the business concern is the average over the previous fiscal year of the concern of the persons employed on a full-time, part-time or temporary basis during each of the pay periods of the fiscal year, and (2) concerns are affiliates of each other when either, directly or indirectly, one concern controls or has the power to control the other, or a third party or parties controls or has the power to control both.

I hereby declare that rights under contract or law have been conveyed to and remain with the small business concern identified above with regard to the invention "A SYSTEM AND A METHOD FOR PROVIDING REAL-TIME RESTAURANT REVIEWS" by inventor BRIAN M. MATTSON

☒ the specification filed herewith

☐ application Serial No. _____, filed _____

☐ Patent No. _____, issued _____

If the rights held by the above-identified small business concern are not exclusive, each individual, concern or organization having rights to the invention is listed below and no rights to the invention are held by any person, other than the inventor, who would not qualify as an independent inventor under 37 CFR 1.9(c) or by any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d) or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e). NOTE: Separate verified statements are required from each named person, concern or organization having rights to the invention averring to their status as small entities. (37 CFR 1.27).

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

☐ INDIVIDUAL

☐ SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN

☐ NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date and which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1.28(b)).

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

NAME OF PERSON SIGNING Brian M. Mattson

TITLE OF PERSON OTHER THAN OWNER PRESIDENT

ADDRESS OF PERSON SIGNING 1914 North Milwaukee Avenue, Chicago, IL 60647

SIGNATURE [Signature]

DATE 4/27/00

S P E C I F I C A T I O N

TITLE

"A SYSTEM AND A METHOD FOR PROVIDING REAL-TIME
RESTAURANT REVIEWS"

5

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

0560067.042700

The present invention generally relates to a system and a method for providing real-time restaurant reviews. More specifically, the present invention relates to a system and a method for providing real-time reviewing of a restaurant within a restaurant by, for example, a patron of the restaurant who may input information into an apparatus to provide individuals outside of the restaurant with real-time information about the restaurant. The present invention further relates to a restaurant having capabilities of providing real-time reviews of the restaurant to individuals outside of the restaurant.

It is, of course, generally known to provide restaurant reviews that are read by many individuals prior to selection of a restaurant. Typically, restaurant reviews are printed in newspapers, magazines or other publications, or verbally expressed on, for example, radio or television. Further, it is generally known to provide restaurant reviews over a computer network, such as, for example, the internet.

These restaurant reviews, however, are generally provided and available after the dining experience. In other words, a reviewer often dines at a restaurant and a review of the restaurant may appear in print form days, sometimes weeks, after the reviewer has patronized the establishment. The review may be fairly current at the time the review is printed; however, often reviews are relied upon by individuals weeks, months, and even years

after the review was made. In some cases, crucial members of the staff, such as the chef, may no longer even be associated with the restaurant.

0560067.042700
5 Providing restaurant reviews after the fact does not provide a potential patron information that may be useful, accurate and necessary to the potential patron. Moreover, other information, such as, for example, the size of the crowd in the restaurant at that time, the length of the wait, the quality of the service, the
10 specials of the day, and any other like information that may change on a daily, or even moment-by-moment basis, is never available from a restaurant review.

Further, most restaurant reviews are done by professional and/or paid critics. Such critics may not
15 have tastes and/or criticisms like those of an "average patron" from which many individuals may wish to obtain a review rather than a professional critic. Further, the published restaurant review is merely one opinion from one of many people who may patronize an establishment.

20 A need, therefore, exists for an improved system and method for providing real-time restaurant reviews that overcome the problems associated with known restaurant review systems and methods as well as a restaurant that accommodates a capability for providing such reviews.

25 SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention provides a system and a method for providing real-time restaurant reviews. In addition, the present invention relates to a system and a method for providing real-time restaurant reviews on a computer
30 network, such as, for example, the internet. The real-time restaurant review may be accessed by an individual in real-time to provide information to a potential patron about the restaurant. The present invention further

relates a restaurant having a capability to provide real-time reviews.

5 To this end, in an embodiment of the present invention, a system is provided for transmitting real-time information regarding a restaurant. The system has an apparatus having a transmission means in the restaurant for transmitting information regarding the restaurant. A display means displays the information regarding the restaurant.

10 In an embodiment, a network is provided for receiving and storing the information.

In an embodiment, the network is the Internet.

15 In an embodiment, the system has a network that displays the first information simultaneously as the information is input into the processing unit.

In an embodiment, a receiving means is provided for receiving the information transmitted by apparatus in the restaurant.

20 In an embodiment, input means is provided for inputting the information into the apparatus.

In an embodiment, the capacity of posting the information on the Internet website is provided.

In an embodiment, a wireless transmission means is provided.

25 In another embodiment of the present invention, a method of transmitting information regarding a restaurant is provided. The method comprises the steps of: providing a first apparatus having a transmission means in the restaurant for transmitting information regarding the restaurant; inputting the information into the apparatus regarding the restaurant; and transmitting the information.

30 In an embodiment, the method further comprises the

step of: transmitting the information regarding the restaurant to a display means to be viewed by a person outside of the restaurant.

5 In an embodiment, the method further comprises the step of: providing a network wherein the information is received and stored; and retrieving the information from the network.

10 In an embodiment, the method further comprises the step of: providing a computer network; and transmitting the information to the computer network.

In an embodiment, the method further comprises the step of: providing a website on the computer network; and posting the information on the website.

15 In an embodiment, the method further comprises the step of: accessing the information via a computer.

20 In another embodiment of the present invention, a restaurant for providing real-time reviews to potential patrons is provided. The restaurant has an apparatus having input means and processing means wherein a patron enters information with the input means. Transmission means associated with the processing means provides for transferring the information to one or more of the patrons.

25 In an embodiment, the restaurant has a plurality of apparatuses, each having a processing means and an input means and commonly networked to each other.

In an embodiment, the information relates to the restaurant.

30 In an embodiment, the restaurant for providing real-time reviews to potential patrons further comprises: the transmission means is a radio frequency antenna.

In an embodiment, the transmission means is a connecting wire having access to a network.

In an embodiment, the restaurant has at least one table and the apparatus is provided on the table.

It is, therefore, an advantage of the present invention to provide a system and a method for providing
5 real-time reviews of restaurants or other establishments as well as a restaurant capable of accommodating the same.

Another advantage of the present invention is to provide a system and a method for providing real-time
10 reviews of restaurants that provide information concerning the restaurant that is useful to a potential patron of the restaurant as well as a restaurant capable of accommodating the same.

A further advantage of the present invention is to provide a system and a method for providing real-time
15 reviews of restaurants for reviewing food, ambience, service, recommended foods, specials and any other like information as well as a restaurant capable of accommodating the same.

A still further advantage of the present invention is to provide a system and a method for providing real-time
20 reviews of restaurants that allow potential patrons to access comments and reviews of individuals who are dining or have dined at a restaurant as well as a restaurant capable of accommodating the same.
25

Moreover, an advantage of the present invention is to provide a system and a method for providing real-time
reviews of restaurants that allow access to the comments a patron or a plurality of patrons at a restaurant as
30 well as a restaurant capable of accommodating the same.

A still further advantage of the present invention is to provide a system and a method for providing real-time reviews of restaurants that allow access to comments

of restaurant patrons on a portable device such as, for example, a telephone or portable Internet device, as well as a restaurant capable of accommodating the same.

And, another advantage of the present invention is to provide a system and a method for providing real-time reviews of restaurants that provide an apparatus to a restaurant reviewer in the restaurant to write a real-time restaurant review as well as a restaurant capable of accommodating the same.

Yet another advantage of the present invention is to provide a system and a method for providing real-time reviews of restaurants that allow an individual to link the apparatus to the Internet to post his or her real-time review of the restaurant as well as a restaurant capable of accommodating the same.

Additional features and advantages of the present invention are described in, and will be apparent from, the detailed description of the presently preferred embodiments and from the drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 illustrates a perspective view of an area of a restaurant and an apparatus for providing a real-time review of a restaurant in an embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 2 illustrates a black box diagram of an embodiment of a system for providing real-time restaurant reviews.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PRESENTLY PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

The present invention generally relates to a system and a method for providing a real-time review of a restaurant. In addition, the present invention provides a system and a method for providing reviews of

restaurants and for providing this information to potential patrons outside the restaurant in real-time. Still further, the present invention relates to a restaurant having a capability for providing real-time reviews to potential patrons outside the restaurant.

Referring now to the drawings wherein like numerals refer to like parts, an interior area 1 of a restaurant is generally illustrated. The area 1 of the restaurant may include a table 10, a server 12 and any other items or individuals that may generally be found in a restaurant and that may be apparent to those skilled in the art. Further, the restaurant may be an eating establishment and/or a bar, or any other establishment that may provide food or drinks.

At the table 10 may be a restaurant patron 14. The restaurant patron 14 may be utilizing the services of the restaurant, such as, for example, having a meal and/or enjoying a drink or otherwise using the restaurant in any way that may be apparent to those skilled in the art.

Contained on the table 10 may be an apparatus 16 that may allow the patron 14 to provide information about the restaurant to a computer network, such as, for example, the internet. The apparatus 16 may contain a processing unit 52 (as shown in Figure 2), a keyboard 18 and/or a mouse 20 or other like device for entering information into the processing unit 52. Further, the apparatus 16 may include a display 22 that may provide information to the patron 14. This information may include a standard form or other like interface that may allow the patron 14 to enter information into the apparatus 16. Further, the display 22 may be a touch-screen whereupon the patron 14 may input information into the apparatus 16 by merely touching specific areas on the

5

10

15

20

30

Providing review information in real-time may allow

09560067 042700

a potential patron the ability to determine specific characteristics of a plurality of restaurants to determine which restaurant the potential patron may wish to patronize. Further, the potential patron may receive a plurality of reviews from a plurality of restaurant patrons that are in the same restaurant to obtain a survey of the restaurant from a plurality of points of view. The potential patron may also activate an instant messaging capability to direct specific questions to the patron 14 of the restaurant. The instant message may be random and received by any patron within the restaurant.

Referring now to Figure 2, a black box diagram of a system 50 is provided. The system 50 may have a processing unit 52, an input means 54, a display means 56 and a transmission means 58. The patron 14 may use the input means 54 to input specific information about the restaurant into the processing unit 52. The patron 14 may use the display means 56 to review what the patron 14 inputs into the processing unit 52. After the patron 14 has input information concerning the particular restaurant 1 into the processing unit 52 via the input means 54, the patron 14 may send the information via the transmission means 58 to a network 60. The network 60 may be any type of information network, such as, for example, the Internet.

Connected to the network 60 may be a display means 62 such as, for example, a computer display monitor or any other like display means capable of displaying information thereon. A user may use the display means 62 to view the information posted on the network 60 by the patron 14. This may be accomplished as the patron 14 is utilizing the particular restaurant. The user may then receive real-time information about the conditions

of the restaurant. The user may then decide whether he wishes to patronize that restaurant or may use the information for any reason that may be apparent to those skilled in the art.

5 Further, a portable display means 64 may be connected to the network 60 via a portable connecting wire or a radio transmission means via an antenna. For example, the portable display means may be a telephone having a screen thereon whereupon the user may show
10 information posted by the patron 14 in the restaurant.

 It should be understood that various changes and modifications to the presently preferred embodiments described herein will be apparent to those skilled in the art. Such changes and modifications may be made without
15 departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention and without diminishing its attendant advantages. It is, therefore, intended that such changes and modifications be covered by the appended claims.

00560067.042700

I Claim:

1. A system for transmitting real-time information regarding a restaurant, the system comprising:
 - an apparatus having a transmission means in the restaurant for transmitting information regarding the restaurant; and
 - a display means for displaying the information regarding the restaurant.
2. The system of Claim 1 further comprising:
 - a network for receiving and storing the information.
3. The system of Claim 2 wherein the network is the Internet.
4. The system of Claim 1 wherein the first information is displayed on the display means simultaneously as the information is input into the processing unit.
5. The system of Claim 1 further comprising:
 - a receiving means for receiving the information transmitted by the apparatus in the restaurant.
6. The system of Claim 1 further comprising:
 - an input means for inputting the information into the apparatus.
7. The system of Claim 1 wherein the information is posted on an Internet website.
8. The system of Claim 1 wherein the transmission means is wireless.
9. A method for transmitting information regarding a restaurant, the method comprising the steps of:
 - providing a first apparatus having a transmission means in the restaurant for transmitting information regarding the restaurant;
 - inputting the information into the apparatus regarding the restaurant; and
 - transmitting the information.

0056007 04270

10. The method of Claim 9 further comprising the step of:

transmitting the information regarding the restaurant to a display means to be viewed by a person outside of the restaurant.

11. The method of Claim 9 further comprising the steps of:

providing a network wherein the information is received and stored; and

retrieving the information from the network.

12. The method of Claim 9 further comprising the steps of:

providing a computer network; and

transmitting the information to the computer network.

13. The method of Claim 12 further comprising the steps of:

providing a website on the computer network; and

posting the information on the website.

14. The method of Claim 9 further comprising the steps of:

accessing the information via a computer.

15. A restaurant for providing real-time reviews to potential patrons, the restaurant comprising:

an apparatus having an input means and processing means wherein a patron enters information with the input means;

transmission means associated with the processing means for transferring the information to one or more of the potential patrons.

16. The restaurant of Claim 15 further comprising:

a plurality of apparatuses, each having a processing means and an input means and are commonly

00560067 0413700

networked to each other.

17. The restaurant of Claim 15 wherein the information relates to the restaurant.

18. The restaurant of Claim 15 wherein the transmission means is a radio frequency antenna.

19. The restaurant of Claim 15 wherein the transmission means is a connecting wire having access to a network.

20. The restaurant of Claim 15 wherein the restaurant has at least one table and the apparatus is provided on the table.

00000000.042700

09505067 04270000

09505067 04270000

FIG. 1

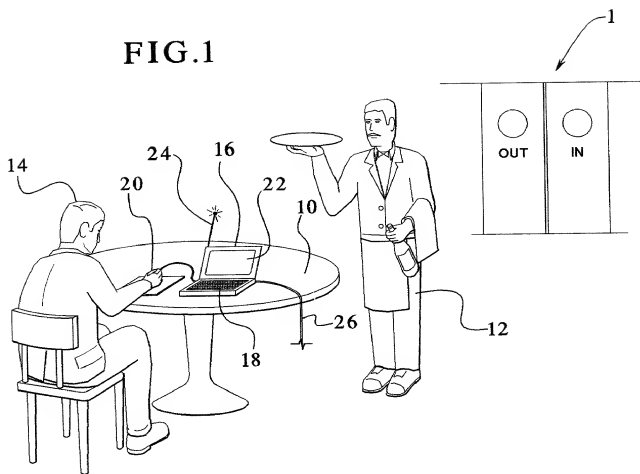
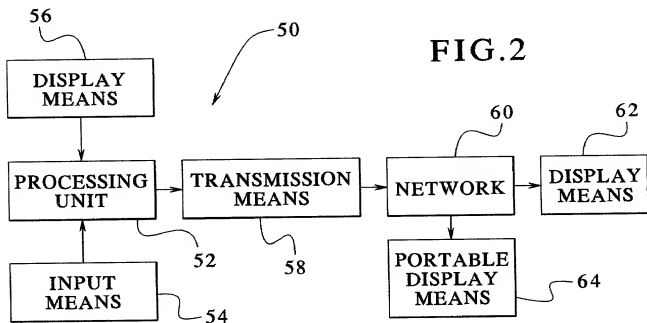


FIG. 2



DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name,

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

**"A SYSTEM AND A METHOD FOR PROVIDING REAL-TIME RESTAURANT
REVIEWS"**

Case No. **MAT-P-99-002**, the specification of which

X is attached hereto.
(check was filed on , as
one) Application Serial No. ,
and was amended on .
(if applicable)

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the United States Patent Office all information which is known to me to be material to the patentability of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, 1.56(a)¹.

I do not know and do not believe this invention was ever known or used in the United States of America before my or our invention thereof, or patented or described in any printed publication in any country before my or our invention thereof or more than one year prior to this application, that the same was not in public use or on sale in the United States of America more than one year prior to this application, and I believe that the invention has not been patented or made the subject of an inventor's certificate issued before the date of this application in any country foreign to the United States of America on an application filed by me or my legal representatives or assigns more than twelve months prior to this application, and that no application for patent or inventor's certificate on this invention has been filed in any country foreign to the United States of America prior to this application by me or my legal representatives or assigns, except as identified below:

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below:

Prior Foreign Application(s)

¹ (b) Under this section, information is material to patentability when it is not cumulative to information already of record or being made of record in the application, and

(1) It establishes, by itself or in combination with other information, a *prima facie* case of unpatentability of a claim; or

(2) It refutes, or is inconsistent with, a position the applicant takes in:

(i) Opposing an argument of unpatentability relied on by the Office, or

(ii) Asserting an argument of unpatentability.

A *prima facie* case of unpatentability is established when the information compels a conclusion that a claim is unpatentable under the preponderance of evidence, burden-of-proof standard, giving each term in the claim its broadest reasonable construction consistent with the specification, and before any consideration is given to evidence which may be submitted in an attempt to establish a contrary conclusion of patentability.

Number Country Date
and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date
before that of the above listed application on which priority is claimed:
Prior Foreign Application(s)

Number Country Date
If no priority is claimed, I have identified all foreign patent applications filed prior to this
application:

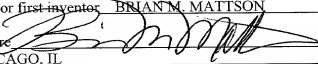
Prior Foreign Application(s)
Number Country Date

And I hereby appoint Brian M. Mattson (Reg. No. 35, 018) and Stephen T. Scherrer (Reg. No.
45,080) of the firm of Patents+TMS, A Professional Corporation as my attorneys with full power of
substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and
Trademark Office connected therewith and direct that all correspondence be forwarded to:

Patents+TMS
A Professional Corporation
1914 N. Milwaukee Avenue
Third Floor
Chicago, IL 60647
Telephone: 773/772-6009

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all
statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were
made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or
imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false
statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Full name of sole or first inventor BRIAN M. MATTSON

Inventor's signature 

Date 4/27/00

Residence CHICAGO, IL

Citizenship USA

Post Office Address 1941 N. WOLCOTT, CHICAGO, IL 60622